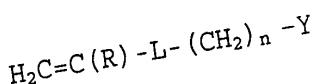


J7172 (V)

CLAIMS

1. Oral care composition comprising a polymer obtainable by copolymerising a mixture of comonomers, from 5 to 95 mol% of the mixture of comonomers is constituted by a comonomer having the formula (I):

(I)



in which R is hydrogen or a methyl group, L is a divalent organic linking group incorporating a benzyl or a carboxyl functionality, n is an integer of from 1 to 4 and Y is an amine, quaternized amine or quaternary ammonium group;

and in which the balance of the mixture of comonomers is constituted by neutral and/or anionic comonomers; said composition being in the form of any one of a toothpaste, gel, foam, chewing gum, deformable strip or mouthwash and being suitable for use in the oral cavity.

2. Oral care composition according to claim 1, in which the comonomer of formula (I) is selected from (ar-vinylbenzyl) trimethylammonium chloride and [2(methacryloyloxy)ethyl]trimethylammonium chloride.

3. Oral care composition according to claim 2, in which the neutral and/or anionic comonomers are selected from styrene, mono-2-(methacryloyl)ethyl succinate, 2-ethylhexylacrylate, 2-acrylamido-2-methyl-1-propanesulfonic acid, 2-hydroxyethylacrylate and mixtures thereof.

4. Oral care composition according to claim 3, comprising a polymer obtainable by copolymerising a mixture of (ar-vinylbenzyl)trimethylammonium chloride, mono-2-(methacryloyl)ethyl succinate and optionally a further neutral comonomer selected from styrene and 2-ethylhexylacrylate.

5. Oral care composition according to claim 3, comprising a polymer obtainable by copolymerising a mixture of (ar-vinylbenzyl)trimethylammonium chloride, styrene and 2-hydroxyethylacrylate.

6. Process for preparing an oral care composition according to any one of claims 1 to 5, comprising the steps of:

preparing a mixture of comonomers as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5 in an ethanol/water diluent;

polymerising the mixture by heating it under inert gas in the presence of an initiator;

extracting the polymer so obtained and blending it with one or more oral care actives and/or excipients so as to produce an oral care composition which is in the form of any one of a toothpaste, gel, foam, chewing gum, deformable strip or mouthwash and which is suitable for use in the oral cavity.